State buses. State buses run up to 10 p.m. according to the prescribed schedule of timings. Private buses were also running to the same schedule of timings as State buses. It does not appear to be a fact that private buses were plying till 11 p.m. on the routes so far taken over by Government.

"(c) The Transport department have received no complaints alleging inconvenience as a result of the existing schedule of timings."

11-15 a.m. SRI H. M. JAGANNATHAM :—" May I know from the Government whether the State buses stop running at 9-30 p.m. in the Parry's Corner?"

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" I am not aware of the specific circumstance put forward by the hon. Member, but I believe that these State buses run in accordance with their scheduled timings prescribed for each route. Certain buses start at 9-30 p.m. and run till 10 p.m. and come to their destination and stop."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, if the Government will have any objection to examine the question of extending the running hours of the State buses?"

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" As the hon. Member knows, the capacity for a man to work is limited. There are now two sets of conductors and drivers, one set working from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the other set from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. If we extend the working hours, it means we will be treating them cruelly. Just as we want to prevent cruelty to animals, we must prevent the same to men also, Sir."

Grant of licence to the " Chitra Talkies."

*19 Q.—ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Home Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that licence was repeatedly refused on many an occasion by the authorities concerned to run a talkie in the newly constructed building called the " Chitra Talkies " near Harris Bridge, and, if so, the reason or reasons for such refusal; and

(b) whether it is a fact that licence has recently been granted to the said talkie and that it is now running its shows and, if so, who granted the licence and why was it granted now, when it was refused on several occasions previously?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" (a) Cinema licence for the theatre was refused in 1939. The theatre is located in a site which is objectionable from the traffic point of view. The street and the roads near the theatre are narrow and there is no possibility of the roads being widened in the near future. The vehicular approaches to the cinema are very unsatisfactory

and the parking space inside is very poor. These objections were pointed out to the applicant even before the theatre was constructed, and yet he persisted in building it.

"(b) No licence has been granted so far and no cinema shows are being exhibited in the theatre at the present time."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Does the Hon. Minister know that this building belongs to minors and was constructed in 1938 with the sanction of the Corporation?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I believe that the information of the hon. Member is correct, Sir."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Does the Hon. Minister know that the building was under requisition for the past seven years for Government purposes and was given back to the owners only on 3rd January 1948?"

MR. PRESIDENT :—" How is this question relevant to the main question?"

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" There is another question, Sir, which will be relevant. Will the Hon. Minister kindly give his personal attention to the application for the licence?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" There can be no question of personal attention being given to any matter, Sir. If any matter comes to me, I shall certainly apply my mind to it, but I do not see how personal attention can be given to it. I cannot visit each and every cinema or theatre on every application received from them, and if I do so, I shall be spending all my time, without having to attend to other matters."

Derationing.

* 20 Q.—SRI P. VEERABHADRASWAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state whether he has received representations from the townsmen in the deficit districts that rationing be discontinued in their towns and whether the Government have arrived at a decision in this matter?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Representations were received from the districts of North Arcot, Trichinopoly, Madura and Vizagapatam for the abolition of statutory rationing in these districts. Rationing has been abolished from 1st February 1948 in Walajapet and Tiruvannamalai towns in North Arcot district and from 8th February 1948 in Srirangam Municipality in Trichinopoly district. The question of abolishing rationing in the other municipalities of these districts is under the consideration of the Government. In the Ceded Districts of Cuddapah, Anantapur Kurnool and Bellary and also in Chittoor rationing of millets has already been abolished. Rationing of rice has been abolished from 29th February 1948 in Cuddapah district